

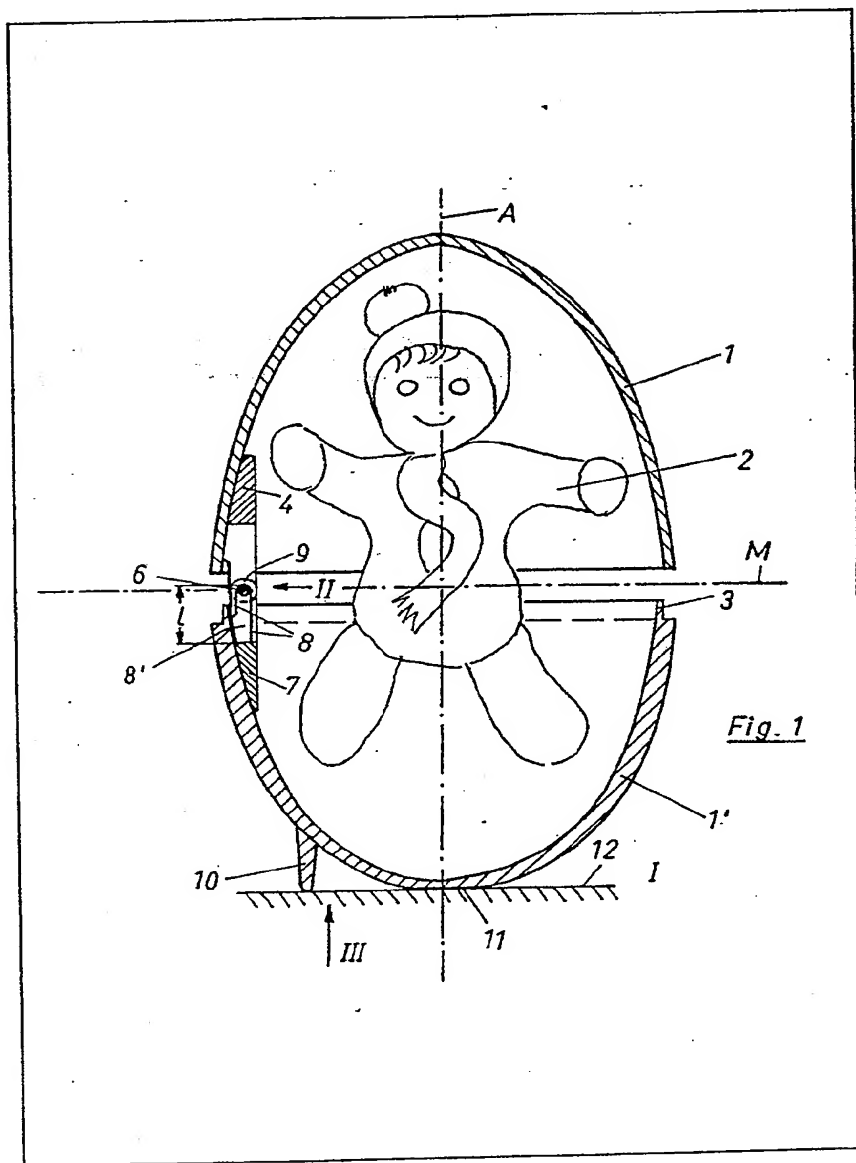
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(54) **Ovoid container**

(57) A container for a toy doll (2) is of ovoid shape and consists of two halves (1, 1'), which are detachable from each other and/or foldable against each other. The dividing line (11) of both halves (1, 1') extends transversely to the

longitudinal axis (A) of the container and in about the middle thereof. The halves (1, 1') may be connected with each other by a hinge (4, 7); in that case, spigots (6) of one hinge half (4) engage guides (8) of the second hinge half (7) and are displaceably mounted therein.



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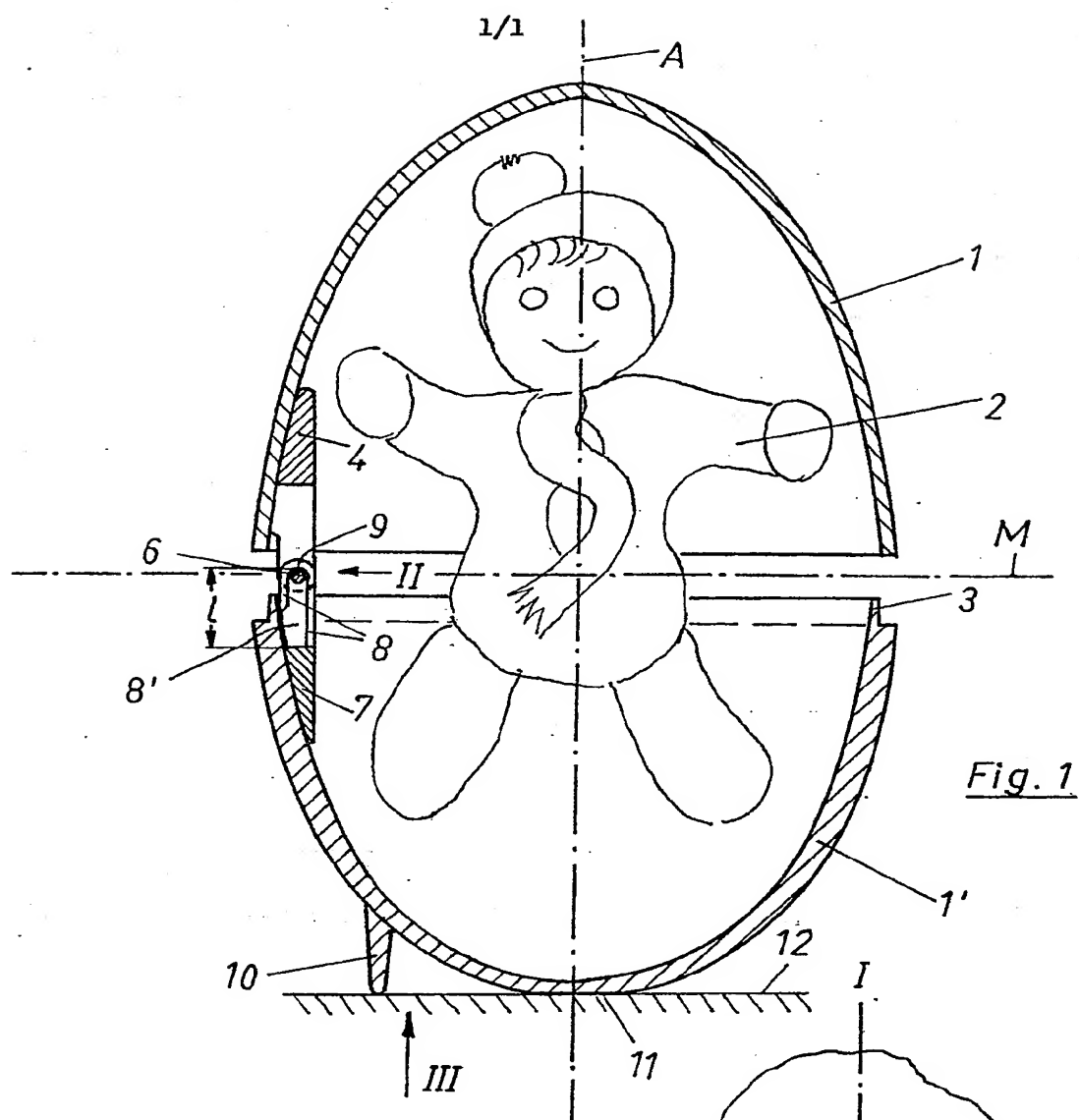


Fig. 1

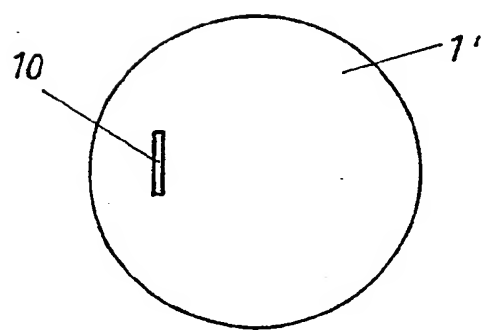


Fig. 3

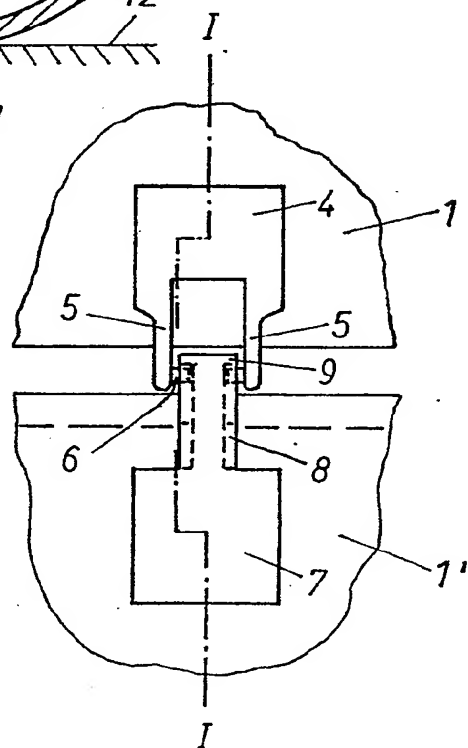


Fig. 2

SPECIFICATION

A container for a toy doll

5 The present invention relates to an ovoid container for a toy doll.

According to the present invention there is provided an ovoid container for a toy doll, comprising two halves which are displaceable relative to each other to open and close the container.

10 The ovoid shape gives the container a particularly high strength against damage such as crushing, beating or the like. According to experience this danger particularly exists with smaller children who handle toys carelessly. Through the presence of two halves, which may for example be detached from each other or folded against each other, the doll, which may be for example 8 centimetres long, is easily removable from or insertable into the container. Also the manual dexterity of the child is promoted. By the container being of ovoid shape, an additional play stimulus is furthermore exerted on the child, since the egg is known to it from nature as well as from the concept of the easteregg, but new to it in the shape of a container for a doll. This arouses the curiosity of the child and thereby stimulates play.

Both the container halves may be connected with each other by a hinge having a respective hinge portion provided on each container half. Both the hinge portions may be displaceable relatively to each other in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the ovoid when the container is closed. This facilitates opening and closing of the container for the unskilled hands of children and is therefore very important.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be more particularly described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

40 *Figure 1* shows a longitudinal section through a container embodying the present invention and taken along Line I-I of *Figure 2*,

45 *Figure 2* shows an elevation in the direction of arrow II of *Figure 1*, and

Figure 3 shows an elevation in the direction of arrow III of *Figure 1*.

An ovoid container comprises two halves in which the upper half providing the point of the egg, is designated by 1 and the lower half by 1'. A small doll 2 fits into the container. The dividing line or joint line of both container halves 1 and 1' extends transversely to the longitudinal axis A of the container and approximately in a central plane M thereof. Both halves are foldable towards and away from each other and connected with each other by means of a hinge. The hinge comprises two portions 4 and 7 which are displaceable relatively to each other by a given length in direction of the longitudinal axis A. This facilitates sliding-over and lifting-off of the upper half 1 over or from an encircling rim part 3 of the lower half 1'. For the longitudinal displaceability of the hinge portions relative to each other, the hinge portion 4 is provided with two arms 5, at the ends of which are disposed small

facing spigots or projections 6. The other hinge portion 7 protrudes by a part 8 into the space between the two arms 5. Disposed in both lateral surfaces of the part 8 are slot-shaped or groove-shaped guides 8' having said given length, into which the spigots or projections 6 engage (see also *Figure 2*). The spigots or projections 6 can thus slide from one end to the other end of the slots or grooves 8'.

Both halves 1 and 1' of the container are preferably extruded of a hard synthetic, for example plastics, material. The hinge portions may be extruded of synthetic, for example plastics, material either integrally with the halves 1 and 1'. The hinge portions 4 and 7 may as in the illustrated embodiment, be extruded as separate parts of synthetic, for example plastics, material and then glued to the inside of the container halves.

To enable the container to be set up vertically, the lower half 1' has a flattening 11. Provided at a spacing from this flattening is a web 10, which extends from the external surface of the half 1' to the level of the flattening 11 so that the container can be set up vertically on a base indicated by 12, for example on a table leaf. The web 10, may comprise synthetic, for example plastics, material and is preferably extruded in one piece with the container half 1'.

Advantages of the embodiment described above are that a container is provided which protects the toy doll particularly well against damage, is producible at a relatively low cost and stimulates play by a child.

CLAIMS

100 1. An ovoid container for a toy doll, comprising two halves which are displaceable relative to each other to open and close the container.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the halves are foldable away and towards each other to respectively open and close the container.

105 3. A container as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein when the container is closed the two halves meet each other in a plane which extends transversely through the longitudinal axis of the ovoid.

110 4. A container as claimed in either claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the foldability is provided by a hinge.

5. A container as claimed in claim 4, wherein the hinge comprises two hinge portions each provided on a respective container half, the hinge portions being displaceable relative to each other in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the ovoid when the container is closed.

120 6. A container as claimed in claim 5, wherein one hinge portion comprises projection means and the other hinge portion comprises groove means, the projection means being guided in the groove means to provide the relative displaceability of the hinge portions.

125 7. A container as claimed in claim 6, wherein one hinge position comprises two spaced arms which extend parallel to the longitudinal axis of the ovoid when the container is closed and from each of which a respective one of the projections extends

towards each other, the groove means comprising two grooves which have closed ends, which are each disposed at a respective opposite side of a part of the other hinge and which each receive a respective one of the projections.

5 8. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein one container half comprises a surface portion of such a shape as to provide stability of the container when the container
10 rests on a horizontal surface with the longitudinal axis vertical.

9. A container as claimed in claim 8, wherein the surface portion comprises a flattening at the region of one longitudinal extremity of the one half and the
15 one half is provided with a projection which extends from the external surface of the one half to the level of the flattening.

10. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each container half comprises extruded plastics material.

20 11. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein each hinge portion comprises plastics material integrally extruded with its respective container half.

25 12. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein each hinge portion comprises extruded plastics material and is adhered to its respective container half.

30 13. An ovoid container for a toy doll, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.